

**From:** bounce-231360-7238911@listserv.state.ma.us on behalf of Governor Deval Patrick <ConstituentServices@state.ma.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 6:53 PM  
**To:** Farak, Sonja (DPH)  
**Subject:** Leadership Based on Values

Dear Colleague:

We all know that our nation and our Commonwealth are in the midst of the worst economic downturn in 80-plus years. We have been aggressively managing the impact of this crisis on the Commonwealth for over a year now, and in that time have solved a cumulative budget gap of more than \$8 billion. We have responded to each shift in circumstances promptly and effectively, making the tough decisions that leadership demands, based on our values -- investments in education, supporting cities and towns and protecting safety net services for our most vulnerable citizens.

Today I announced \$600 million in further spending cuts and other cost controls to bring our operating budget in line with the revised consensus revenue estimate for FY 2010.

Because we made decisions based on our values, we were able to protect investments in key areas. Local aid and chapter 70 funding for cities and towns are among the priority areas that we have held harmless. We have also worked to preserve human services that help our most vulnerable citizens.

[A full list of specific reductions is available here](#)

I have also directed agencies to reinstate a second round of furloughs for non-union employees of up to 9 days, tiered by salary.

Two weeks ago I asked union leaders to come to the table to discuss concessions. We are still engaged in discussions. Without an agreement soon, we will begin the layoff process, eliminating up to 2,000 positions across state government. I will continue to work with union leaders in the weeks ahead, and give you my personal assurance that every effort will be made to retain as many jobs as possible.

I have also proposed to eliminate Bunker Hill Day and Evacuation Day as state holidays to increase efficiency and productivity within the workforce. I want you to know that I value you and your service to the people of the Commonwealth. This proposal is in no way a reflection of a lack of respect for the jobs you perform day in and day out. We do however have to ask you to do more with less.

I know the sacrifices you are being asked to make will not be easy. You and I both know they could damage both the quality of state services and of many of your lives.

Because of the wise investments made by this administration in the innovation industries of the future, like the life sciences and clean technology, independent analysts report that Massachusetts is positioned to recover faster and stronger than the rest of the nation. We must stay the course.

In the meantime we will continue to find strength in each other, and I hope to count on your partnership as we do. At all times -- but especially in times of need -- our balance sheet should be a reflection of our values, and today's decisions honor that commitment.

I deeply value you and your service to the people of the Commonwealth, and continue to be inspired by your dedication. There are better times ahead, and I hope you will work with us to get through these toughest of times together.

Sincerely yours,

Governor Deval Patrick

Note: To watch the Governor's video message on this topic, click on the image below:

